

A Child's Right



EQUAL TIME WITH BOTH OR PARENTS

To all Family and Children Services Committee Members, Regards to HB 5267

As President and Co-founder of A Child's Right, I am providing my testimony in hopes to help those committee members who are still non-supportive of House Bill 5267. I urge you to step outside of the opposition and listen to the voices of those who have been affected.

My personal story, as I will provide a brief summary, has left me, as well as my father, an emotional scar which will never heal. My parents divorced when I was five and I was denied time by my mother to see my father. My father was granted the usual every other weekend scenario, and yet, my sister and I were still denied time with our father.

My father and I will never be able to make up the time we lost, which is unfortunate because I have learned, fifteen years too late, that he is a very intelligent man with a lot of heart and unconditional love for his daughters. I know if my father was allowed the time with us, he would have been able to protect us from the unstable environment my mother put us in everyday, which the current custody laws viewed in our "best interest." Our environment consisted of illegal drug use and alcohol abuse by my mother and her boyfriends, multiple boyfriends who were emotionally and physically abusive, and many times, left home alone while she entertained at local bars. Again, this was in our "best interest?"

Obviously words are words, however, the pain and suffering my sister and I faced going through everyday life in this environment is significantly ignored by those who can make a difference and allow children equal time with both parents for structure and stability.

As an exception to the rule, I was fortunate enough to rise above and create a different life for myself and my future children. As a healthcare professional, I urge you to truly look at the ridiculous opposition and their underlying desires to rape children of equal time with both parents. Let's face it: Domestic violence laws haven't changed and those concerned with increased violence should research the statistics; it's actually reduced thanks to shared parenting. "Jumping home to home" as some would protest only instills a security of belonging for children.

Help break the cycle of what today's society accepts as a norm to bring back the true meaning of the American family. Let's work together and start advocating for what truly matters: It's all about the children, right? It's not too late, support House Bill 5267 and set the example for others of what the American family should be. For our children's sake.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

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